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History of the Ministry of Foreign Trade

1. The Ministry of Navigation and Foreign Trade (Ministerstwo Zeglugi i Handlu Zagranicznego) in Poland from 1945 until 31 December 1946 was headed by Dr. Stefan JEDRYCHOWSKI as Minister, with Dr. Kazimierz PETRUSZEWICZ as Deputy Minister for Navigation and Dr. Ludwik GROSSFELD as Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade.
2. In January 1947 there was a reorganization and the Foreign Trade Division of the Ministry of Navigation and Foreign Trade was transferred to the Ministry of Industry and Trade (Ministerstwo Przemyslu i Handlu) with the status of an autonomous Under Secretariat of State for Foreign Trade (Autonomiczny Podsekretariat Stanu dla Spraw Handlu Zagranicznego). The Minister was Hilary MINC and the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Trade was Dr. Ludwik GROSSFELD.
3. On 1 January 1949 the Ministry of Foreign Trade (Ministerstwo Handlu Zagranicznego) was created as the result of another reorganization, with Tadeusz GEDE as Minister of Foreign Trade. The Deputy Minister until June 1949 was Engineer KUTIN, who was then transferred to the post of Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Internal Trade (Ministerstwo Handlu Wewnetrznego). KUTIN was replaced as Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade by Czeslaw BAJER. From 1949 until May 1952 there were no top-level changes in the Ministry of Foreign Trade.
4. There were about 600 employees in the Ministry of Foreign Trade.  For the key personnel of this Ministry  As government employees they belonged to the Government Employees Union (Zwiazek Pracownikow Rzadowych).

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Organization

25X1A 5. Poland's foreign trade was conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Trade through its organ, the Central Offices for Foreign Trade (Centrala Handlu Zagranicznego) [redacted]. The Ministry was divided into departments; the departments were divided into sections. Descriptions of departments follow:

a. Department of Planning and Coordination (Departament Planu i Koordynacji)

- (1) The director of the Department of Planning and Coordination was Engineer Marijan DICHTER. Deputy directors were Engineer KORAL, in charge of goods planning, and Engineer ZAWIDZKI, in charge of transportation of goods. This was the most important department in the Ministry. It prepared and confirmed export and import plans on the basis of various projected export and import plans. In Poland's foreign trade the value of exported goods had to exceed the value of imported goods. The difference was used for the maintenance of Polish diplomatic and trade missions in foreign countries.
- 25X1A (2) Export plans were prepared on the basis of import needs, and goods for export were provided by the industries according to their own production plans based on both domestic needs and export requirements. Projected export plans were sent by the Planning Department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade to the State Commission for Economic Planning (Panstwowa Komisja Planowania Gospodarczego - PKPG) where other ministries (such as the Ministry of Internal Trade) also sent projected plans. [redacted] The PKPG, on the basis of projected plans for export, surplus and capital investment, and the projected production plans of the industries, considered the production capacities of the industries and finally prepared and assigned to the respective ministries the plans of production, capital investment, sale and export. The export plans approved by the PKPG contained only the mass of goods an industry was obliged to provide for export. The Department of Planning decided the countries to which the goods would be exported, as well as the value of the goods in foreign exchange (rubles and dollars) calculated on the basis of prices received for similar goods in the previous year. The export plan as finally prepared by the Department of Planning contained the mass of goods to be exported in trade units (i.e., metric tons, etc.), value in foreign exchange (dollars and rubles), and direction of export. The plan was sent by the Department of Planning to the Export Department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, and to the Central Offices of Foreign Trade for execution. It was classified secret.
- (3) With regard to imports, purchase orders for critical materials were sent from the Department of Planning and Coordination either directly to Polish trade representatives in Western countries or to certain Central Trade Offices dealing in particular goods. (All such orders were classified secret.) For example, the central office ELEKTRIM for import of electrotechnical articles (ELEKTRIM - Centrala Importu Artikulow Elektrotechnicznych) would try, by all means, to import badly needed machines, electric motors, generators, and equipment for Polish heavy industry. Some such goods were imported from Sweden in exchange for Polish coal; some from Czechoslovakia, the USSR, and East Germany. In fact, the central offices were ordered to import certain goods wherever they could obtain them. (The electrical industry was very poorly equipped in Poland.)

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- (4) Import of a great many critical materials was done through foreign firms representing Polish trade abroad. Although communications with respect to import needs were sent through Polish representatives abroad, requests for ordinary articles were sent directly to dummy firms which were approved by the Ministry of Foreign Trade as politically reliable. Cooperation between Polish and other Satellite purchasing networks was dependent on the needs of the two countries. For example, trade exchange with Czechoslovakia was extensive because of the needs of both countries.
  - (5) The Department of Planning was also responsible for the transportation of goods by land, by river traffic, and by sea. Transportation plans were prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Railroads (Ministerstwo Kolei), Ministry of Transportation (Ministerstwo Transportu), and the Ministry of Navigation (Ministerstwo Zegluga); final approval was given by the PKPG. Government enterprise C. Hartwig, under the Ministry of Foreign Trade, was responsible for the fulfillment of the land transport plan. Government enterprise Polish Oceanic Lines (Polskie Linje Oceaniczne - PLO), formerly Gdynia Amerika Line (GAL), was responsible for sea transport as shipping company under the Ministry of Navigation; Polfracht acted as shipping broker.
  - (6) The Department of Planning supervised plan fulfillment by the Import and Export Departments as well as by the Central Offices of Foreign Trade and received detailed reports every 10 days from all Central Offices as well as reports every three months explaining reasons for any difficulties in execution of the plan. There were also many conferences at the Department of Planning and the Central Offices relating to production.
- b. Department of Treaties I and Department of Treaties II (Departament Traktatow I i Departament Traktatow II)
- (1) Both of these departments dealt with trade agreements. Department of Treaties I dealt with agreements made with the USSR and Satellite countries; Department of Treaties II dealt with agreements with capitalistic countries. The director of Department of Treaties I was DODIUK; the director of Department of Treaties II was WOLYNSKI.
  - (2) These departments prepared materials for international commercial negotiations with a view to concluding commercial agreements. The negotiations were carried out by a commercial delegation appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Trade. The delegation chairman in important trade pacts, such as agreements with the USSR or Czechoslovakia, was the Minister or the Deputy Minister. In less important cases the chairman was named by the Minister of Foreign Trade. He was, as a rule, the director or deputy director of the pertinent Department of Treaties but at times was the director or deputy director of the Department of Export or of Planning. If negotiations were held outside of Poland, the chairman of the delegation had for the duration of the negotiations the title and rights of a minister plenipotentiary because it could be necessary for him to sign the treaty in the name of the government.
  - (3) Each department was divided into sections either by individual countries (e.g., the USSR Section or the Czechoslovak Section) or by regions (e.g., the Balkans Section). Department of Treaties I was particularly well developed.

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- (4) The Department of Treaties which supervised the conclusion of international agreements and controlled their fulfillment received reports from the Central Offices of Foreign Trade on the execution of such agreements.
- (5) The Department of Treaties had a decisive influence on establishing positions of commercial councilors and attaches at Polish diplomatic outposts.

c. Department of Export (Departament Eksportu)

- (1) The director of the Department of Export was Franciszek FABIJANSKI; deputy directors were BERGER and SCHOENBORN. The function of the department was the supervision of the fulfillment of the export plan, that is, the acquisition of foreign exchange to cover import needs. It was also responsible for the maintenance of diplomatic outposts. The Export Department supervised and instructed the Central Offices of Foreign Trade in all matters connected with the export of goods.
- (2) This department issued export licenses and approved export transactions. In conjunction with the Department of Planning, it made changes of direction (virement) in the export plan. Further, it was partly responsible for selecting candidates from the Central Offices for business trips abroad.

d. Department of Import of Capital Investments (Departament Importu)

- (1) I do not recall the names of the directors.
- (2) This department was responsible for the fulfillment of the import plan. It set up sums for the purchase of goods in foreign countries according to plan. Further, it controlled the Central Offices with respect to purchasing, controlled prices, and indicated place of purchase. In conjunction with the Department of Planning it changed the direction of purchases. And finally, it carried out the accounting of Polish holdings abroad and issued import licenses within the limits of Polish assets. The department was partly responsible for selecting buyers for abroad from the Central Offices of Foreign Trade.

e. Finance and Accounting Department (Departament Finansowi i Rozliczen)

The director of the Finance and Accounting Department was JURKIEWICZ; the deputy director was ROSENBERG. The department was responsible for fulfillment of financial plans. In agreement with the Departments of Planning, Export, Import, and Treaties, it established conditions of payment in international agreements, and the manner of payment for export in free exchange, as well as payment for imports. Further, it controlled the finances of the Central Offices of Foreign Trade and the relations of those offices with the banks which credit the foreign trade. The work of these banks was directed by the Finance and Accounting Department in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance.

f. Department of Organization (Departament Organizacyjny)

The director of the Department of Organization was HORCZEK. This department prepared the organizational setup of the Central Offices of Foreign Trade. It determined the number of job positions in each office and the extent of competence of the offices.

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It decided, together with the Personnel Department and other departments, who was to be sent abroad and instructed those persons being dispatched. It supervised the Central Offices with respect to exceeding their budgets and their allotted jobs.

g. Personnel Department (Departament Kadr)

I do not know who was director of the Personnel Department; the deputy director was KOZICKI. This department implemented personnel policy and was responsible for all personnel. It hired and fired for the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Further functions were: the appointment of directors and chiefs of departments of the Central Offices pending the approval of the Minister; the appointment of foreign trade delegates to be sent abroad (in conjunction with the Organization Department and in consultation with the Departments of Export, Import, and Treaties); the submission to the Minister of the names of candidates for commercial posts at Polish diplomatic missions abroad; the issuing of passports to representatives of the Central Offices. The passport section was controlled by the Security Office; the most important members of the section were U.B. agents.

6. In all departments there were many workers who were promoted to higher positions because of their social origin (even without theoretical preparation for the work). They were all agents of the Security Office.
7. The remaining departments were concerned only with administrative matters. Because I had no occasion to deal with them, I am not familiar with either the organization or the personnel of these departments.

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